American Welding Society and WEMCO Honor TV Host Mike Rowe with 2015 Excellence in Welding Award

Miami, Fla., October 19, 2015 – The American Welding Society (AWS) and WEMCO, an Association of Welding Manufacturers, and a standing committee of AWS, have honored TV host Mike Rowe, with a 2015 Excellence in Welding Award in the exceptional category.

The Excellence in Welding Awards are given out in 10 categories and honor individuals and companies who make a powerful impact in their communities. The exceptional category is a special recognition given by the WEMCO Executive Committee to a person who goes above and beyond to promote welding and the skilled trades industries. Rowe is the first ever recipient of an Excellence in Welding Award in the exceptional category.

Best known as the “dirtiest man on tv” a title he earned while hosting Discover Channel's Dirty Jobs, Rowe is currently in production for his show Somebody’s Gotta Do It on CNN, in which he introduces viewers to innovators, do-gooders, entrepreneurs, collectors and fanatics with unique jobs that aren't the most glamorous but make civilized life possible.
Rowe also founded The mikeroweWorks Foundation, a public charity that awards work ethic scholarships to students pursuing a career in the skilled trades. To date, The mikeroweWorks Foundation has awarded more than $3 million in scholarships across the country in support of closing the country’s skills gap. As a strong supporter of the trades, Rowe often serves as a spokesperson for issues related to the skills gap, the aging workforce, and the meaning of a good job.

“The entertainment industry loves to give out awards, and I’ve been honored with several in the past. But for me, the awards that matter most are the ones like this. To be recognized by AWS is better than gratifying. It’s humbling. Because fundamentally, it’s a privilege to speak on behalf of some many good jobs that actually exist, and help shine a light on so many great opportunities. I’m flattered, and very proud to accept this award on behalf of everyone at mikeroweWorks, thanks!”

The remaining 2015 Excellence in Welding Award winners will be announced on November 11, 2015 during the FABTECH show in Chicago, Ill.

About AWS
The American Welding Society (AWS) was founded in 1919 as a multifaceted, nonprofit organization with a mission to advance the science, technology and application of welding and allied joining and cutting processes worldwide, including brazing, soldering, and thermal spraying. Headquartered in Miami Florida, and led by a volunteer organization of officers and directors, AWS serves more than 70,000 members worldwide and is composed of 22 Districts with 250 Sections and student chapters. For more information, visit the society’s website at http://www.aws.org and click on “Pressroom.”

About WEMCO
Established in 1996, WEMCO, an Association of Welding Manufacturers serves as an alliance between American Welding Society (AWS), and dozens of manufacturers of welding, cutting and related welding-industry equipment. As a standing committee of AWS, this influential organization is an invaluable source of information and services for welding industry end users, distributors and manufacturers. For nearly 20 years, WEMCO members have enjoyed unparalleled networking opportunities, idea generation and exchange in a noncompetitive atmosphere. For more information visit: http://www.aws.org/wemco

About mikeroweWORKS Foundation
As CEO of the mikeroweWORKS Foundation, Mike Rowe spends a significant amount of time speaking about the country’s dysfunctional relationship with work, the widening skills gap, and challenging the persistent belief that a four-year degree is automatically the best path to take. The mikeroweWORKS Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that awards scholarships to qualified individuals who have an interest in mastering a specific skilled trade. The Foundation has been instrumental in granting more than $3 million in education “work ethic” scholarships for trade schools across the country.